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BASEL CONVENTION

Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal
Eleventh meeting
Geneva, 3–6 September 2018
Item 3 (b) (iii) of the provisional agenda*

Matters related to the work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for 2018–2019: scientific and technical matters: electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents

Electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 2 of its decision BC-13/17, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal requested the Secretariat to prepare, subject to the availability of funding and for the consideration of the Open-ended Working Group at its eleventh meeting, a document containing options on how to move forward on electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents, taking into account the note by the Secretariat on the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance (UNEP/CHW.13/9), the note by the Secretariat entitled "Control system: electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents" (UNEP/CHW/CC.12/11/Add.2) and the results of a further survey on the issue, in particular through the gathering of more recent information from Parties and others on existing electronic approaches.

II. Implementation

2. On 12 April 2018, the Secretariat invited Parties and others to provide by 22 June 2018 recent information on their experiences with electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents by completing a questionnaire on this topic. Responses received to the questionnaire are available on the website of the Convention[1] and are summarized in document UNEP/CHW/OEWG.11/INF/21.

3. While the responses to the surveys conducted by the Secretariat (UNEP/CHW/CC.12/11/Add.2 and UNEP/CHW/OEWG.11/INF/21) indicate that there is support among Parties and others for an initiative to provide for electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents under the Basel Convention, they also show that there are reservations about such an initiative related to the challenges associated with the complexity of developing an electronic information system that can be applied globally and that allows for the cross-border exchange of

* UNEP/CHW/OEWG.11/1.

[1] http://www.basel.int/?tabid=7375.

electronic data. Nevertheless, significant progress has been made at the national and international levels to establish systems and procedures for the automation of processes and the exchange of electronic information with the aim of improving the management and control of the movement of goods, including through ongoing initiatives under a number of international agreements and arrangements. These experiences can inform any further work on electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents to be undertaken under the Basel Convention.

4. Against this background and taking into account the information contained in the note by the Secretariat entitled "Control system: electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents" (UNEP/CHW/CC.12/11/Add.2), the following options for moving forward on electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents may be considered:

(a) To provide Parties with an understanding of options for electronic systems for processing, storing and exchanging information relating to the notification and movement of hazardous and other wastes, their benefits and challenges. This could be done through the preparation of a report on the experiences, at the national and international levels, in developing and implementing electronic systems for exchanging information on or controlling the movements of goods and wastes and lessons learned from such experiences;

(b) To promote shared understanding among Parties of the expected benefits of an initiative to establish a Basel Convention system that allows for the automation of processes and the electronic exchange of information relating to the notification and movement of hazardous and other wastes, the requirements of a system that could achieve these benefits and options for it. This could be done through the organization of consultative workshops involving experts from Parties and observers to brainstorm on these options and consider steps towards their implementation;

(c) To consider, on the basis of the outcomes of activities outlined in subparagraphs 4 (a) and 4 (b) above, whether to initiate a process for establishing a Basel Convention electronic system for the notification and movement of hazardous and other wastes.

III. Proposed action

5. The Open-ended Working Group may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Open-ended Working Group,

1. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting consider requesting the Secretariat:

(a) To prepare, within available resources, a report on experiences, at the national and international levels, in developing and implementing electronic systems for exchanging information on or controlling the movements of goods and wastes, and lessons learned from such experiences, for the consideration of the Open-ended Working Group at its twelfth meeting;

(b) To organize, within available resources, consultative workshops involving experts from Parties and observers from the five regional groups of the United Nations to explore options for a Basel Convention system that would allow for the automation of processes and the electronic exchange of information relating to the notification and movement of hazardous and other wastes, their expected benefits and requirements and possible steps towards their implementation;

(c) To report to the Open-ended Working Group at its twelfth meeting and the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting on the activities referred to in subparagraphs 1 (a) and 1 (b) above;

2. *Also recommends* that the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting consider inviting Parties and others to provide to the Secretariat by 31 January 2020 information on their experiences in developing and implementing electronic systems for exchanging information on or controlling the movements of goods and wastes and on experts who could contribute to the consultative workshops referred to in subparagraph 1 (b) above.